



Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Trustee Board	
	Management Board	
	Executive Committee	
	Finance & Commercial Development	
	Appointments & Remuneration	
	Compliance, Governance & Risk	
	Other: SVR meeting	

Meeting Date	Thursday 1 st October 2026
Meeting Time	12.30pm to 1.30pm
Attendance	
Present	• 11 SVRs • 2 HISA team

Section	Minutes
1. Welcome and admin	• Explanation of the Ocean Learning Centre (OLC) • Open call for students to help Anushka with outreach • Teams space access and importance of emails Actions: SVRs interested in outreach to contact Merlin, Annie, or Anushka
2. Training and future SVR meetings	Discussion on the where, and when, of in-person training and upcoming meetings • Unanimous agreement that the OLC is the preferred venue • Agreement that lunchtime remains the preferred option, provided the meeting is held somewhere where students can eat (i.e. the OLC) • Some SVRs already trained (online) • In-person training to be held the morning of 22nd October • SVR meetings to be held on 4th and 25th November to allow for reading week and exams etc Actions: Annie to request room bookings

3. Café Camus and alternative lunch venues	An issue was raised anonymously that the new rules regarding limiting food to Café Camus, whilst understandable in the context of airborne allergens, have led to the café being so loud at lunchtime that those with sensory issues can no longer eat lunch. • Suggestion raised to increase awareness of the café space in JMB, as this is quieter. • Other options to be explored. Actions: SVRs and HISA staff to think of ideas. To raise again at next meeting with intent to resolve
4. Drying Space	SVRs raised the possibility of having some form of drying provision • Lots of students cycle to university • Lots of students regularly swimming • West Coast weather! • No resolution on how to proceed with this, as it is not believed that suitable facilities exist
5. AI Seal?	Concerns raised that the seal emblem created for last year's Arran trip is AI generated • Uncertainty whether this is the case • View that it is a missed opportunity, if so (environmental concerns regarding AI aside) • Request for confirmation, one way or another, from relevant staff • If it is AI generated, then the possibility was raised of holding a student competition to create a new image, of a seal, to be used going forward Actions: as above. SAMS staff to please let HISA and students know whether the seal is AI generated. If yes, to please work with HISA to run a student design competition
6. AI in Ecology Class	SVRs raised that there are a number of students undertaking the ecology unit who are vehemently opposed to the use of AI • Lecturer has set assessed coursework to create something with AI, and then discuss its failings • Appreciation amongst attendees of the intent of this piece of coursework • Feeling that, as many who oppose the use of AI do so for ecological and environmental reasons, it seems counterintuitive to have such a task set in this unit

	SVRs hoped that an alternative could be offered. A promising suggestion is that a single piece of AI work is created and set to all students, whose assessed task is then to question it and demonstrate the same critical reasoning and research skills the original piece of work would Actions: Merlin to support SVRs and other students in the Ecology class to raise this with the lecturer, ensuring that they make full use of the ABCDs of Effective Feedback. Possibility to raise it in a future Programme Lead Meeting.
7. Event ideas	SVRs were asked what they would like to see happen, for them and their fellow students, in the coming months. - Broad agreement that board games and similar would be well received. List of favourites provided by attendees, including chess, trivial pursuit, uno. Agreement that monopoly both too long and too antagonistic. - The idea of HISA organising regular swims was raised. It was pointed out that the Wind & Wave club do this already, and that there is a Wild Swimming Club based out of the UHI NWH Fort William campus. - Flea market: SVRs raised the possibility of a bring-and-buy/swap/flea market idea. General agreement that, if possible, this might be a good thing to put on after Christmas. - Idea of a permanent book swap raised again - Request for more Therapets visits - Question was raised as to what sort of thing might be helpful during exam and revision times. Idea of a board for post-its and notes of positive affirmations raised and well received - SVRs told about the Christmas Tree Decorating event - SVRs told about the Photography Competition - SAMS boat trip: SVRs requested an boat tour, perhaps courtesy of Oban Sea Tours. Agreement that a free trip is extremely unlikely, but that a discount might be possible. The fact that there is a SAMS boat was raised, but believed that the logistics of taking her out would make the possibility of this occurring for a leisure excursion extremely unlikely. Actions: Merlin and Annie to confirm what is available via Polly as per earlier conversation, and to purchase further games.

	Annie to reach out to Wind & Wave to see if HISA can help them organise more 'open' swimming events. Annie and Merlin to explore logistics of bring-and-buy and book swap ideas with Leah and Polly. Annie to book more Therapets visits. Annie and Merlin to explore logistics of 'positivitree' post-its. Alyssa to ask Oban Sea Tours if a discounted trip might be possible for SAMS students
8. Beach Café Pricing	Concerns raised regarding the price of food at the Beach Café - SVRs confirmed that students receive a 20% discount, but that this is only for certain items - Discussion as to the fact that everything is expensive, and hospitality venues need to survive - Suggestion raised that HISA periodically purchase an urn of soup from the café, and do a 'free soup' day - Additional suggestion that the above is done, but £1 soup, in order to get some money back to pay for more soup. Uncertainty as to whether this is feasible re: cash handling, but if it is logistically possible this would enable the soup to be self-sustaining and repeatable - A further suggestion raised is to discuss with the Beach Café whether they might heavily discount pre-prepared food items shortly before closing, reducing food waste and allowing students to buy something cheap - Another suggestion is that we might ask the Beach Café if they would consider introducing a meal-deal idea, for students Actions: Annie to discuss cash-handling policy with HISA senior management team. Annie to get a quote for soup. Other suggestions to be raised with the Beach Café by Annie and Merlin.